(f) whether it is a fact that some handful of favourite manufacturers were only favoured for inclusion of products and others who also fulfilled the criteria were ignored: and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Proprietary items are purchased either from manufacturers of sole distributors. Besides, selective tendering is resorted to for items costing less than Rs. 2 lakhs and public tender for items costing more than Rs. 2 lakhs.

(d) The number varies from year to year depending upon the successful bidder.

(e) Only such applications are rejected which do not fulfil the pre-tendering qualifications laid down in the Tender Notice.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Abolition of Fee Levied on Government Pensioners for Medical Treatement by CGHS

1918. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will contemplate of abolishing the fees levied on the Government pensioners for their medical treatment by the CGHS Directorate as a step towards helping the senior citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government will take the necessary action in this regard for exposing the cause of social welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) The rate of contribution being charged from the Central Government pensioners is nominal. It far from covers the cost of modern medical facilities/techniques being made available to them for their medical care under CGHS. The cost of such care is increasing over the years. Therefore, there is no such proposal for the present.

Projects of DD and AIR Stations taken up and Completed in Bihar during 8th Plan

1919. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects pertaining to Doordarshan and AIR stations taken up and completed in Bihar during the current Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) All India Radio had taken up 8 projects, of which 5 have been commissioned. Doordarshan has commissioned 9 LPTs for DD I. 1 LPT for DD II and 3 Studios. 12 LPTs. 2 VLPTs and 1 Studio in respect of Doordarshan are under implementation in the state of Bihar.

(b) An amount of approximately Rs. 26.30 crores and Rs. 46 crores is expected to be incurred on the schemes of All India Radio and Doordarshan, respectively.

Sucess of Family Welfare Programmes in Containing the Growth rate of Population

1920. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Family Welfare Programme has been successful in containing the growth rate of population;

(b) what has been the results in so far as States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are concerned; and

(c) details of efforts made to make the programme more effective in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The Crude Birth Rate has dropped from 36.9 per thousand population in 1971 to 28.3 in 1995 as per the estimates of the Sample Registration System (SRS).

(b) The States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh continue to have birth rates in excess of 32 per thousand population as per the estimates of the SRS for 1995. The Birth Rate in the State of Orissa (27.7) is below the national level of 28.3, but the Infant Mortality Rate (103 per thousand live births) is much higher than the National level of 74.

(c) Providing additional inputs to States/Districts with adverse socio-demographic indicators is an accepted policy of the Family Welfare Programme.

Defaulters of Customs Duty

1921. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several private companies and many Government undertakings are among the defaulters in customs duty transaction; and

(b) if so, the details of these companies and Government undertakings and what legal action is being taken by Government to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the names of companies can be furnished if the time period for which the information is sought is available. However, the Government has taken legal steps to prevent the tendency on the part of importers to delay the payment of customs duty by enacting appropriate legislation. Section 28AA of the Customs Act, 1962 which has been enacted in Finance Act, 1995 provides for impostion of interest @ 20% on the amount, the payment of which is delayed by the importer. In addition, Section 142(I) (C) (ii) has been introduced by Finance Act, 1995, unabling the officers of the Department to distrain any movable or immovable property belonging to the said importer and cause the said property to be sold and appropriate the sale proceeds towards the sums due to the Government.

Formulation of Media Policy

1922. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any media policy;

(b) if so, the main salient features thereof and whether the same is to be placed on the Table of House during the current Session; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROACASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) At present, the media policy has not been codified. However, different media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting function under various codes/regulations/guidelines as specified from time to time.

Paucity of funds for opening CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi

1923. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS is facing paucity of funds for the last ten years for opening of CGHS Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the development of Ayurvedic